AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 9. Canceled

10. (New) Moisture absorptive and desorptive ultrafine particles, wherein the said particles consist of a cross-linked polymer containing 1.0 to 10.0 meq/g of a salt-type carboxyl group and 0.1 to 2.0 meq/g of the sulfonic acid group and/or salt-type sulfonic acid group as polar groups where an average primary particle size is not more than 0.1 μm and saturated moisture absorptive ratios at 65% RH and 90% RH at 20°C are not less than 20% by weight and not less than 40% by weight, respectively.

11. (New) The moisture absorptive and desorptive ultrafine particles according to claim 10, wherein the type of the salt of the carboxyl group or the type of the salt of both polar groups is a potassium type.

12. (New) Moisture absorptive and desorptive sheet, wherein the moisture absorptive and desorptive ultrafine particles according to claim 10 are fixed to a substrate.

13. (New) The moisture absorptive and desorptive sheet according to claim 12, wherein the ratio of the moisture absorptive and desorptive ultrafine particles in the fixed area on the substrate is more than 80% by weight.

14. (New) The moisture absorptive and desorptive sheet according to claim 12, wherein the fixation has been carried out by a reaction of a cross-linking compound.

15. (New) The moisture absorptive and desorptive sheet according to claim 12, wherein the fixation has been carried out by a polymerization of a polymerizing compound.

16. (New) A moisture absorptive and desorptive element, wherein the moisture absorptive and desorptive sheet according to claim 12 is layered.

17. (New) A humidifying/dehumidifying apparatus, which has the moisture absorptive and desorptive element according to claim 16 as one of the constituting elements.